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Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

* UNPROFOR Force Commander oversees evacuation of civilians from Zepa; Gorazde and Bihac reported to be calm, but fighting continues in Sarajevo.

* United States welcomes Secretary-General's delegation of authority regarding use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina; stresses international community's resolve to oppose Bosnian Serb aggression.

* Security Council Committee appeals for information on violations of mandatory arms embargo against Rwanda.

* Economic and Social Council adopts 59 resolutions and decisions on human rights, including right to development and rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities.

* Working Group on Indigenous Populations holds thirteenth session in Geneva.

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The Force Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), Lieutenant-General Rupert Smith, today returned to Zepa to oversee the orderly evacuation of civilians from the enclave, according to a spokesman for the Organization. A total of 4,400 people have been, or are being, evacuated. Some 2,500 of them have already crossed the confrontation lines into Government-controlled areas in central Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Meanwhile, the situation in Gorazde remained quiet, with no troop movements in the area reported. The Bihac pocket was also quiet after intense fighting over the last week. However, there was moderate fighting in Sarajevo, with 1,300 firing incidents recorded yesterday. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) convoys have been reaching the Bosnian capital with relative ease this week, but the Bosnian Serbs have now demanded that they receive a larger percentage of the aid being delivered.

In another development, Tadeusz Mazowiecki has resigned as Special Rapporteur for human rights in the former Yugoslavia because of world inaction over the fall of Srebrenica and Zepa. Mr. Mazowiecki criticized the international community for its "slow and ineffectual" response to continuing

For information media—not an official record

human rights violations.

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The United States has welcomed the Secretary-General's delegation of authority with respect to the use of air power in Bosnia and Herzegovina to the Commander of United Nations Peace Forces (UNPF). Permanent Representative Madeleine Albright said today that the decision would streamline current procedures and increase the potency of air power as a deterrent to aggression.

"NATO and the United Nations stand together in their determination to respond resolutely to further Bosnian Serb offensives," she said. "The Bosnian Serbs should now be on notice of the international community's resolve to oppose further acts of aggression."

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The Security Council Committee established under resolution 918 (1994) has appealed for information on violations or suspected violations of the mandatory arms embargo against Rwanda. The appeal was addressed to governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as to individuals.

The embargo prohibits the sale or supply to Rwanda of arms and related materiel of all types, including weapons and ammunition, military vehicles and equipment, and paramilitary police equipment. It also prohibits such sale or supply to persons in neighbouring States if the arms or materiel are for use in Rwanda.

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The Economic and Social Council has adopted 59 resolutions and decisions on human rights, including the right to development and the rights of ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities. Those measures dealt with the human rights situations in the former Yugoslavia, Cambodia, Somalia, Cuba, southern Lebanon, Iran, Zaire, Haiti, Equatorial Guinea, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Iraq, Sudan, Burundi and Rwanda.

Earlier in the week, the Council adopted resolutions and decisions on crime prevention and criminal justice, and narcotic drugs. The resolutions dealt with guidelines for the prevention of urban crime, a code of ethics for public office holders, and a recommendation that a world conference be held in 1998 on prevention of trafficking in narcotic drugs.

The Council also heard a statement by Gertrude Mongella, Secretary-General of the Fourth World Conference on Women. She said the Beijing Conference would exceed all expectations in terms of size, the breadth of issues addressed and the mobilization of support for equal rights for women. The many non-governmental organizations attending would add depth and impetus to the proceedings, she added.

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The Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities' Working Group on Indigenous Populations is holding its thirteenth session. Every year, more than 600 representatives of governments, United Nations bodies and indigenous organizations gather in Geneva to discuss the concerns of indigenous peoples. The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations has enabled 52 indigenous representatives to attend this year's session.

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